

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A seat reclining mechanism ~~as defined in claim 2,~~ for a vehicle seat comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing;

a locking means received between the first and second housings; and

a fastener for rotatably connecting the second housing to the first housing;

wherein the fastener is formed with at least one arcuate retainer portion and at least one slide portion that respectively project toward the second housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion has an arcuate shape elongated in a circumferential direction of the fastener so as to increase flexural rigidity of the fastener;

wherein the fastener comprises a fixture portion fixed to a peripheral edge of the first housing and a guide portion rotatably supporting a peripheral edge of the second housing, and wherein the at least one retainer portion is proximally formed in the guide portion, and

wherein the fastener comprises a transient portion interconnecting the fixture portion and the guide portion, and wherein the transient portion is formed with at least one outwardly deformed portion.

6. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 5, wherein the at least one outwardly deformed portion is radially aligned with the at least one retainer portion.

7-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A seat reclining mechanism for a vehicle seat, comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing;

a locking means received between the first and second housings; and

a fastener for rotatably connecting the second housing to the first housing;

wherein the fastener is formed with a plurality of retainer portions and a plurality of slide portions that respectively project toward the second housing; and

wherein the retainer portions and the slide portions are alternately positioned at desired intervals along the fastener.

14. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 13, wherein the fastener comprises a fixture portion fixed to a peripheral edge of the first housing and a guide portion rotatably supporting a peripheral edge of the second housing, and wherein the retainer portions are proximally formed in the guide portion.

15. (Original) A seat reclining mechanism as defined in claim 14, wherein the retainer portions are formed by depressing the guide portion.